A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, May 8. 1708.

AND now, Gentlemen of *Britain*, we are a going to chooſe Parliament Men, ſhall I tell you a Story?

A certain Man, in a certain Country, at a certain Time, 'tis no matter *Who*, *Where*, or *When*, for that is not material to the Story; had a uefful Cur, a Dog of Quallity, a *large Shock-Dog*, who was his peculiar Favourite; this Gentleman, whether a Lord, or a Sir *E*———, or what, is not much Matter, being willing to prefer this Dog according to the Reſpect he had for him, he propos'd to ſeveral of his Accquaintance his Deſire of doing ſomething for the Honour of his Favourite; it was not long they conſulted about this Matter, when it occur'd to one of the Gentlemen, that was, it ſeems of his Council, that there was to be at their Town quickly an Election of Repreſentatives or Deputies, or ſome ſuch Sort of Folk, whether they call'd them Aldermen or Parliament Men, or what they call'd them in that Country, I do not determine.

The Gentleman riſes up in a Warmth, my Lord, ſays he, I have an Opportunity to ſerve you at this Time extremely to your Satisfaction, for in our Town the Election is to be about 40 Days hence, and if your

your Lordſhip will but uſe your Intereſt for Mr. *Shock*, we will all chooſe him.

I would be glad to have poor *Shock* choſen, ſays my Lord, and *doubt not but he would repreſent the Town very well too*; but there is Sir *T*—— and Sir *H*——— ſtand for the Town already, and I doubt we ſhall never carry it.

No Matter for that, ſays the Townſman, if your Lordſhip ſays the Word, I know *Shock is rich*, and if your Lordſhip will but come among us a little, and ſpend a little Money, we'll make a good Party for him; and your Lordſhip's Recommendation, but eſpecially ſome Caſh, will do it preſently.

What, whether they ſee him or no, ſays my Lord?

Ay, ay, if it be ſaid it is but a Dog of your Lordſhip's ſending, we'll drink them into the reſt, ſays the Gentleman; it will do admirably well, *ſays my Lord*, I am only afraid of the Miſcarriage, I would not baulk the Cur, for he is but a young R———e.

Gent. Never fear that, my Lord; if *Shock* will but bleed a litle freely, Money and Ale will chooſe any Body.

Lord. Well, but ſays my Lord, what have the other Gentlemen done, how ſtands their Intereſt?

Gent. Hang their Intereſt, ſays the other, they are not worth chooſing.

Lord. Why, they are both very honeſt Gentlemen, I doubt, *Shock* will never carry it.

Gent. They are honeſt Gentlemen enough; I don't ſay againſt it, but they won't ſpend their Money; 'tis he that will ſpend his Money is the honeſt Man with us, and we judge by a good Rule too.

Lord. Pray, what Rule do you judge by?

Gent. My Lord, we judge by our Sences of ſeeing, feeling and taſting, all which are affected by our Way of chooſing; whereas thoſe that pretend to chooſe by Men's Vertues and Quallifications, take them unſight, unſeen, and at beſt they do but hear of them at a Diſtance, and when they come to make Trial of them, your Lordſhip's *Shock Dog* would have done every Jot as much Service in publick Affairs.

Lord. Well, I am like ſome of your Candidates, I care not whether *Shock* does any Good in the H—— or no, ſo he be but choſen; let us talk of chooſing him, and let *Shock* alone to tell you his Quallifications afterwards.

Gent. I agree with your Lordſhip in that Caſe too, we value his Qualifications as little as your Lordſhip; 'tis the Affair of chooſing that belongs to us, and I am ready to enter into a Diſcourſe with your Lordſhip about that, whenever you pleaſe.

Lord. Well, and what's the firſt Queſtion then you will ask about it?

Gent. A plain Queſtion, my Lord, How much Money will my Lord *Shock* ſpend among us, or give us, for it's all one?

Lord. I'll diſcourſe with *Shock* about it, and you ſhall have my Anſwer next Time You and I meet.

And

And now, Gentlemen, to satisfie your Curiosity about the *Who*, the *Where*, and the *When*, *&c.* you may understand, that some Years ago having an Occasion to make an Experiment about going up to the Moon, and having found an Engine call'd a Consolidator, which being most ingeniously composed by a Sort of Workmen call'd TACKERS, and having by a singular *High-Flying* Elevation rais'd my self up into the Lunar Regions, and made there many useful Observations; some of which I gave you an Account of at my Return in a little Book worth no Body's reading, call'd also the *Consolidator, or a Voyage to the Moon*; *to be Sold by those Booksellers that have it.*

I say, being arriv'd in these Lunar Regions, and having made a great many useful Observations, one of them was, that in that Country I observ'd, there were just such Sort of Doings as there is here; the People were just as they are here, *half* K——s, *half* F——s, and *half* such as thought themselves wiser than they were; that their Governments were manag'd just as in this World, some Despotick, some Republick, some Aristocratick, some Democratick, and all Tyrannick; every one pretended to Right and to Liberty, and to publick Good, and made loud Noises of their unbiass'd Justice, disinterested Actings, and vast Moderation, and yet were all fighting and snarling for Dominion over one another.

Among the rest, I found one Nation of People, just like one you have heard of, and they were govern'd by their own Laws, had the giving of their own Money, and sometimes had the Humour of bullying and insulting their own Sovereign, and Abundance of ill Uses and good Uses they daily made of a certain long-coveted, ill-apply'd, little-understood Thing, they call'd by a long hard Word in their Language, TRYBELITRYPEROP, being as well as I could translate it, something like what we call *Liberty* and *Property.*

It is true, they had a Monarch govern'd them, but they always refused to commit this choice Affair to his keeping, but chose a certain Number of People out of their wise Men, *not but that now and then a weak Brother got into the Assembly too*, to represent the rest, and to whom they solemnly entrusted the keeping this Chary Jewel; and this Assembly being frequently renew'd, it happen'd they were just preparing to choose them as I came into the Country.

I observ'd Abundance of Strife and Contention about this Work, bribing, buying and selling Voices, and all Manner of illegal Practices, almost as bad as we use here; and being surpriz'd to find such wild Doings among them, which I thought had been a wise People, I could not but take Minutes of what I observ'd there; one Part of which you have above, and some of the rest you may hear of speedily, according as this pleases you.

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